

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Several weeks ago they dissalowed their affiliates from honoring the dead in Iraq. Keeping information from the American public and distorting information as news to advance a political agenda is an affront to our democracy and more to the point, irresponsible if not illegal considering their use of public airwaves.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get information that is in support of the ideologues they agree with and less of what we need for a democractic society to sustain iteself. Although I would prefer to see news from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter, what I do not want to see are distortions, lies, and a failure of the media to report on information vital to my country's interests.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard and why all of us, including the FCC need to be diligent in ensuring that the media obey the law, especially when an election as important as this one, is at stake. Thank you.